

A STATISTICS-PRESERVING ACL FLATTENING SYSTEM AND METHOD

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ABSTRACT

5 A method and system transforms one or more lists for a data communications system into a single list, each list of the one or more lists including a plurality of entries. The method includes removing non-terminating entries from the plurality of entries in the one or more lists, the removing each non-terminating entry removing all but a last non-terminating entry in any of the one or more lists; and eliminating from
10 the plurality of entries one or more entries that provide for one or more impossible actions, wherein the removing of non-terminating entries and the eliminating of one or more entries that provide for impossible actions, if any, produce a single list preserving tracing of the entries in the single list to the plurality of entries.